THE EVANGELICAL CATHOLIC

GO, MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.
MATTHEW 28:19
THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
JASON SIMON

GO, MAKE DISCIPLES
OF ALL NATIONS.

We always label the first followers of Jesus “the twelve disciples.” But they were actually something more than that. They were “the twelve disciple-makers.”

In Luke 9, Jesus sends the twelve out on mission to make disciple-makers. They succeeded. We know because later, in Luke 10, Jesus sends seventy-two others out on mission to make disciples.

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commands the now eleven disciple-makers to “make disciples of all nations.” He can command this because they are not merely disciples; he has made them into disciple-makers.

Where are today’s Catholic disciple-makers? A video series or retreat might make disciples. Programs can help a person commit their life to Jesus and learn discipleship practices by which to live. But no video series makes a disciple-maker. No retreat program makes a disciple-maker. It takes time and patient love to make disciple-makers. A man named Chip met one-on-one with me for months to help me become a disciple-maker. That’s what it takes.

For the Lord’s command to be fulfilled, we need to do more than make disciples. Implicit in his command is that the Church make disciple-makers. St. Dominic, St. Francis, and St. Ignatius of Loyola didn’t stop at making disciples. If they had, their movements would have never grown. They made disciple-makers.

The Evangelical Catholic raises up disciple-makers. In 2017-2018 we trained 750 disciple-makers and they reached 3,963 people. In 2018-2019 we were blessed to train 1,563 disciple-makers (108% increase) and together they reached 5,818 people (46.8% increase).

We are zealous to raise up more disciple-makers in the world. Good Catholics in the pews respond so generously to the vision and mission of disciple-making. Jesus calls them to be disciple-makers. We are blessed to be one of his instruments to prepare them to bring his life to the world.
The EC is experiencing tremendous growth in the ministries we serve. We continue to build up and foster disciple-makers who are equipped to reach the lost. The expansion of the EC has also required larger office space in Madison. We are ready to extend the Church’s mission of evangelization across the globe.

**New Address:**
6602 Normandy Lane, Floor 2, Madison, WI 53719
Our annual Evangelization Training Camp (ETC), sponsored by the McGrath Institute for Church Life and the Word Among Us, was held on July 22-25th, 2019, at the University of Notre Dame. Over 350 leaders gathered for a week of prayer, training workshops, inspiring talks, Mass, and fellowship. Priests and lay ministers were deeply impacted to not only form disciples, but to raise up disciple-makers in their ministries. Hearts and minds were renewed through worship and prayer as leaders began to envision their ministry with on-fire disciple-makers. We will return to the University of Notre Dame on July 20-23, 2020, and we are excited to announce a new conference title: REACH MORE™ Live!

"I value a whole new approach to evangelization I was never taught. This is the key to the Church being and becoming what Jesus wishes it to be."

Rev. Richard Lifrak, SSFC
U of Texas, Rio Grande Valley

Through the generous contributions of our benefactors, registration costs were covered for 37 priests.
When Father Dave asked us to consider becoming Evangelical Catholic small group leaders, I wasn’t sure if we were up to the task. I would consider joining a small faith group but to lead one? After praying about it, we decided to take a giant leap of faith!

After the training, when we formed our small group, I was amazed to see how Jesus opened our busy schedules. He made it all possible! We completed the training and learned so much! Being introduced to lectio divina with daily prayer and reflection was key to forming our personal relationship with Jesus, our new best friend.

We formed our small group with parish couples and neighbors. They told us they felt comfortable sharing in our home. We all found that concentrating on the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday greatly enhanced our experience at Mass. For one of the couples, it awakened a desire to come back to Sunday Mass after a long time away. Alleluia, Praise God! We are on a faith journey together with Jesus shepherding the way!

Mary and Pat Regan
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
Hastings, MN

FINANCIALS

The Lord’s blessings, through our many benefactors, has enabled us to reach the lost. The stories shared in this report reflect how the financial support of our work impacts the lives of Catholics, forming them as disciples and disciple-makers. Looking to the year ahead, we are prepared to continue our growth and launch more Catholics into the fruitful mission of disciple-making.

TOTAL INCOME $2,166,945

SOURCES OF FUNDS

- Benefactor Contributions 52.8%
- Support Team Contributions 11.6%
- Ministry Income 27.7%
- Conference, Publications, & Other 7.9%

TOTAL EXPENSES $1,993,946

USES OF FUNDS

- Evangelization and Consulting 12.6%
- Evangelization Resources 9%
- Office Ministry & Management Support 8.4%
- Benefactor Stewardship & Expansion 70%
In our initial training group, we invited a newlywed couple new to the parish to participate in discipleship formation. The wife had always been a devout Catholic and the husband, who was raised Catholic, had more recently come back to his faith and was looking for an opportunity to grow. In the first few meetings, I could tell he was listening hard to the opening testimonies, and during check-ins, it became clear that making regular time during the work week for prayer was a challenge. I’ll never forget when we were talking about our friendship with Jesus and how we would rank it on a scale of 1 to 10. There were a lot of sevens and sixes, but this young man spoke up and bravely stated that he felt his relationship with God was at about a two. I thanked him for honestly voicing this, and from that point on, the transformation we’ve witnessed in this young man is re-evangelizing us! God is truly reaching more.

Cullen Sporleder
Camp Pendleton Marine Base

Print and Digital Release Dates

Nextstep: Volume One
Now Available

Nextstep: Volume Two
March 2020

Free Online Trial - Lent 2020
Go to www.ecnextstep.com to sign up for updates.

*CARA Institute, Frequently Requested Church Statistics, 2018
*Kelly, Matthew; Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, 2011

THE NEXT STEP

THERE ARE 67 MILLION CATHOLICS IN THE UNITED STATES.

22% of self-identifying Catholics attend Mass regularly.

7% are "engaged" through parish involvement, financial giving, and personal prayer.

93% of people sitting in the pews live a very passive Catholic life.

Catholics at Sunday Masses long to grow in their relationship with Jesus and their ability to be his witnesses in the world.

They are positioned to be engaged, but they don’t know their next step.

Guiding these Catholics into mature discipleship and fruitful mission can change the world.

Nextstep is a multimedia Catholic discipleship guide that leads spiritually-open users step-by-step to solidify their belief, mature their discipleship, and launch them into mission.

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